

**REMARKS**

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 9, 19 and 21, objected to claims 2-7, 20 and 22, and allowed claims 10-12, 14 and 16-18. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 10-17 and for indicating that claims 2-7, 20 and 22 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. By this Response, Applicant amends claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 19 and cancels claims 2 and 20. Currently, claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16-19, 21 and 22 remain pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner made a number of claim objections, each of which is addressed by this Response. With reference to claim 1, the Examiner suggested amending “a primary port” to recite “the primary port” and amending “a plurality of end-device ports” to recite “a plurality of end-device secondary ports.” As indicated above, Applicant has made these amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

With reference to claim 7, the Examiner suggested inserting “the” before “further non-bridge transactions.” Applicant has not made this amendment because the claim, as amended, does not have an antecedent basis for the definite article “the.” The amended claim now recites two kinds of “further non-bridge transactions”: those “with a target address within the address range,” and those “with a target address outside the address

range.” (Emphasis added.) Applicant believes that this amendment renders the Examiner’s objection to this claim moot and respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

With reference to claim 22, the Examiner suggested that it should be amended to depend from claim 20 rather than claim 19. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that the above-mentioned amendments render this objection moot. By this Response, claim 19 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 20, and claim 20 is canceled. Therefore, while claim 22 is not currently amended to depend from claim 20, it now depends from a claim that recites the subject matter formerly recited by claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

In the Final Office Action, the claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. While Applicant does not agree with this rejection, claim 19 is amended by this Response to expedite allowance of the present claims. Specifically, claim 19 now recites that the routing engine is “configured to selectively transmit a transaction from the primary port to at least one secondary-port of the plurality of secondary ports based on whether the transaction is targeted for a bridge.” (New text underlined.) Applicant respectfully asserts that the third sentence of paragraph 26 in the Specification supports this amendment and requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.


Finally, Applicant respectfully stresses that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. By this response, each rejected independent claim is amended to incorporate the features recited by a dependent claim that the Examiner indicated would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite the features of claim 2, and claim 19 is amended to recite the features of claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16-19, 21 and 22.

**Conclusion**

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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